

Woodhall Weekly



Friday 23rd May 2025



The end of another half-term at Woodhall, and what a busy five weeks it's been! We were **exceptionally proud** of our **Year 6** children as they worked so hard both towards and during **national SATs week**, putting in every effort and even being at school for Breakfast Club at 7.30am! **Well done Hope, Finlay, Edi, Sofiia, Aaron, Jasmine, Jazmin, Duarte, Emma, Thomas, Juan, Artem, Charlie, Ryan, Maria, Denis, Thiago and Keno!** We are currently auditioning Year 6 for the main parts in this year's Key Stage 2 production '**Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies**'...keep checking '**Dates for your Diary**' (below) for end-of-term dates, including performance times!

As the excitement mounts towards our **70th Anniversary celebration day** on **Friday 11th July**, on Thursday we had great fun with our '**Time Tunnel Day**'...an imagined day at Woodhall in May 1955! Starting the day with an assembly where children were reminded of the importance of **good manners at all times**, each class went on to experience a morning of learning the three Rs...**Reading, wRiting and aRithmetic**. After a lunch of sausage, beans, chips and sponge cake; it was time for a typical **1950s PE lesson** with the boys and girls split for some pretty strenuous drills and we ended the day with a **rock n' roll Woodhall Hop**...not strictly in primary school style, but we needed to have some fun at the end of the day! 'Time Tunnel Day' was the launchpad for the **next half-term's learning**, where the children will be finding out about the **history of Woodhall and South Oxhey**.

We've had some amazing emails from ex-pupils (see below). **If you know anyone who used to come to Woodhall as a child, please spread the word about our celebrations and ask them to get in touch!**

You should have received a letter detailing our big, big '**Happy Birthday Woodhall!**' day on **Friday 11th July**. We want this to be a **huge celebration of our lovely little school**. The children will perform some songs from throughout the decades; there'll be **dancing, music** from our DJ, **dressing-up**, a **barbeque** and other **refreshments, inflatable games** and **more**. **Bring the whole family!** *Please complete the form (at the end of the letter sent home) and return it to school as soon as possible.*

On **Friday 13th June**, we'll be holding a **non-uniform day**. Children can come to school wearing their own clothes **in exchange for a packet of sweets** (or any suitable children's gift) for our tombola stall at our 'Happy Birthday Woodhall!' day in July.

If you know of any shops/companies that might like to donate a **70th anniversary raffle prize**, please get in touch.

Thanks everyone, and have a lovely half-term break. See you back at Woodhall on **Monday 2nd June!**

Michelle Lake

head@woodhall.herts.sch.uk



MEMORIES OF WOODHALL

From the number of ex-pupils that drop in to say hello, we know that Woodhall remains dear to people's hearts long after they've left our school! We have received so many emails from past pupils wanting to share some of their lovely memories. Here are some extracts...you can read their full accounts on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/woodhallprimaryschool>

Brenda Lee (attended Woodhall from 1965-1971):

My time at Woodhall was so happy, I lived just down the road in Ganton Walk. Teachers I can remember: Miss Hollyoak, Mrs Copesteak, Mr Hinchcliff. I can remember Mr Edwards who I think was the Head at one time, and I can remember Mrs Ryan who used to look after us if we were poorly, and always ready with a plaster if needed. So many memories... having bottles of milk at break time, going to the tuck shop and buying potato puffs. Not too many sweets as we all had to visit the school dentist Mrs Smythe! Learning to write in italic and feeling so proud of myself when I actually got my first fountain pen and blotting paper! I can remember the winters being absolutely freezing - ice on the inside of the windows, walking up those steps to the playground and a group of us would all huddle up against that wall to try and keep warm. Still I can remember crying and being terrified when we had to leave to go to big school. So many memories and mainly happy ones, I could go on forever. I loved going to Woodhall and growing up on the estate.

Sue Cossan (attended from 1955):

The teachers I remember were Miss Bulpitt, Mr Vicars and Mr Dunford. The Headmaster was Mr Bedford. Mr Dunford had a cane in the classroom which he would swish occasionally, a great deterrent, I don't remember him ever using it as punishment. We were in awe of Mr Bedford and had to go to his office on our own occasionally to read through lists of words. In the last year we went to the Caledonian school swimming pool in Bushey for swimming lessons. I hated it and still can't swim! We were taught the recorder and I played in school concerts, I enjoyed acting as well. A travelling theatre company came occasionally and we all sat in the hall to watch. We used to listen to 'How Things Began' on the radio, a history programme. I can remember sewing in the first or second year we had to make a fold over bag out of a piece of felt. The school nurse came sometimes to check everyone's hair for nits. I was in Oak house and we got points for good work and conduct. I was very proud in my last year when I was made a prefect. I went on two school holidays, with Mr Vicars and Miss Bulpitt to the Isle of Wight then the last year to Swanage with Mr Dunford. Mr Vicars had to give some of the boys the slipper as they broke a window. I have a photo of all of us outside the hotel. I loved my time at Woodhall.

Vivien French (attended 1965-1971):

My memories I cannot remember much about Infants other than playing Kiss Chase, Hop Scotch and British Bull Dog in the little play ground to the left. Transferring to the Juniors my first experience was a teacher called Miss Holyoak who wore white bloomers and when reading a book to us at story time we could always see her bloomers and there was a lot of giggling! The other things that I can remember is having to create an outfit worn in Roman times, italic writing with an ink fountain pen and blotting paper. Creating a decorative Letter at the beginning of your story like Tudors times. The Easter bonnet parade, and nativity plays, learning to play the recorder and the choir singing at Watford Town Hall with all the other South Oxhey schools. Our 11+ exams were held in the dining room which was to determine if you could go to Grammar School. When you got to the 4th year you became a server at dinner table. There were 2 per table who would lay the table, serve the water and clear the table at the end. We did projects for Moon Landing in 1969, and decimalisation in 1971 the year before we transferred to Senior School.

Y5 MINI POLICE ASSEMBLY

Our Year 5 children have been taking part in the brilliant 'Mini Police' programme with PCSOs Chris and Ross this half-term. Over the past few weeks, children have learned all about the crucial role of our police officers in the local community...from **tackling anti-social behaviour** to dealing with **personal safety**. Last week, the children even took part in a 'speed operation' where they tracked the makes, models and speeds of vehicles travelling along Little Oxhey Lane. On **Friday 13th June**, **parents/carers of children in Year 5 are invited to join us at 9am for a very special Mini Police graduation assembly**. Did the children cut the mustard as Woodhall Mini Police Officers? *We'll find out on the 13th!*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please note: life in primary school can be very eventful and sometimes we will need to make changes to the dates listed. When this happens, we will try to give you as much notice as possible.

DATE/TIME	EVENT
Monday 26th May- Friday 30th May/HALF TERM WEEK	
Monday 2nd – Friday 6th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Week
Thursday 5th/Friday 6th June	Year 6 residential trip to Gulliver's Land
Monday 9th – Friday 13th June	Year 4 Multiplication Test Week
Friday 13th June	Non-uniform day (in exchange for sweets for our tombola)
Friday 13th June	Year 5 Mini Police assembly (9am start)
Monday 16th – Friday 20th June	National School Sports' Week
Friday 20th June	Sports' Day (with family picnic)
Tuesday 24th June	Year 4 'Shine' concert (Electric Umbrella) at St. Albans' Cathedral
Thursday 26th June	Tiger Cubs' class assembly
Tuesday 1st July	Happy Birthday Woodhall: launch day at Oxhey Library
Thursday 3rd July	Panthers' class assembly
Thursday 10th July	Year 6: Hertfordshire secondary transition day
Thursday 10th July	Year 3 & Year 4 class assembly
Friday 11th July	Happy Birthday Woodhall! Family Fun Day
Tuesday 15th July	KS2 Production (2pm & 6pm performances)
Wednesday 16th July	Parents/Carers' consultation evenings
Thursday 17th July	'Woodhall's Got Talent' (during school day)
Thursday 17th July	Year 6 Leaving do/Years 1-6 disco
Friday 18th July (1pm)	End of term; Year 6 leavers' breakfast/assembly
Monday 21st August - Thursday 4th September/SUMMER HOLIDAYS	
ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026	
Friday 5th September	Back to school
Monday 27th – Friday 31st October/ HALF TERM WEEK	
Monday 1st December	Occasional Day
Friday 19th December	End of term
Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January/CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	
Monday 16th– Friday 20th February/HALF TERM WEEK	
Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April/EASTER HOLIDAYS	
Monday 25th -Friday 29th May/HALF TERM WEEK	
Wednesday 22nd July	End of term

CONGRATULATIONS TO LAST WEEK'S AWARD WINNERS!



WE ARE SO PROUD OF OUR AWARD WINNERS!



Y6.5.25	The Woodhall Wow: ASPIRATION	Learner of the Week
TIGER CUBS 	POPPY for being so brilliantly positive about learning new sounds to help improve her reading.	MONET who has made a huge extra effort in her writing this week. Not easy when you're a tiny Tiger Cub!
PANTHERS 	MINNIE who is always so enthusiastic about her learning and always aims to be the best that she can possibly be!	JOSPEH for working SO hard when writing his sentences and including adjectives and commas.
JAGUARS 	ELLIE for her great determination to improve in her times tables learning! Well done Ellie!	JEROME for showing great enthusiasm during our FAIRTRADE project and putting his hand up in lessons constantly!
LIONS 	A joint award this week for our YEAR 6 LIONS who have worked SO incredibly hard towards their SATs, which took place this week. The effort that you have all put in has been BRILLIANT and we are so proud of you all!	

USEFUL CONTACTS

Headteacher: Michelle Lake

head@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

SENCo: Mrs Raithatha

sraithatha@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

EYFS (TIGER CUBS) Teacher/EYFS SENCo: Miss Jones

njones@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

Year 1/2 (PANTHERS) Teachers: Mrs Fitzgerald/Mrs Biedul

Julie.Fitzgerald@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

lbiedul@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

Year 3/4/5 (JAGUARS) Teacher: Mrs Cooper Battersby

Ebattersby@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

Year 5/6 (LIONS) Teachers: Mr Rubeck

irubeck@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

SCHOOL OFFICE

0208 428 3447

admin@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

For notification of absence, please email:

attendance@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

or:

Phone the Office and press Option 1